

BOOK REVIEWS

ERNEST SMALL and GRACE DEUTSCH. 2002. **Culinary Herbs for Short-Season Gardeners.** (ISBN 0-87842-453-9, pbk.), Mountain Press Publishing Company, Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, U.S.A. \$20.00. (**Orders:** www.mountain-press.com, info@mtnpress.com, 406-728-1900, 406-728-1635 fax). \$20.00, 182 pp., 14 color photographs, 14 b/w illustrations, 128 full color illustrations, and one full color map of plant hardiness zones of North America.

Growing up in semi-tropical Australia, writer/publisher Grace Deutsch knew she had her hands full after immigrating to Southern Ontario, Canada with desires of having a culinary herb garden. She admired and was curious as to how her gardening friends in Montana, the Adirondacks and northern Alberta managed to have persistently beautiful and productive flower, vegetable and herb gardens in such a relatively short warm-weather season. Fortunately, she met co-author Dr. Ernie Small by chance at a summer herb fair. Dr. Small was raised in the Ottawa Valley and is an international authority on agriculturally important plants. He has written over 200 scientific publications and 7 books, including *Culinary Herbs*, the professional herb-growers bible. Together they collaborated to create this very useful book for the novice or experienced short-season gardener who enjoys a culinary garden just outside their kitchen door. It is concise, practical, and easy-to-use.

A full color map of Canada and the USA helps you interpret your plant hardiness zone for growing perennial herbs that will survive your particular winters. Chapter: *Making the Most of the Short Growing Season* is full of practical advice. Chapter: *Growing and Caring for Your Herbs* is a gardening primer for herb growers. Chapter: *The Culinary Herb Compendium* includes 50 species, with 100 cultivars. Herbs are arranged alphabetically by common name along with scientific name and the plant family name. Icons clearly mark annuals from perennials along with a colored "Coldest Tolerated" zone box. These boxes enable you to quickly see the coldest zone in which the herb may overwinter successfully. These individual herb listings include the following elements:

Description of herb's origin; life cycle; size; leaf shape, color, taste and fragrance; stem and root formation; flowering habit; suitability for growing in pots or containers; which parts are edible; plus any additionally desirable features, for example, if the flowers are very alluring to honeybees or butterflies. **Cultivation Notes:** everything you need to know about plant's soil, light, and moisture requirements; propagation techniques; pest and disease problems; growing indoors; outdoor overwintering survival strategies. **Harvesting Notes:** for maximum flavor and how best to preserve. **Culinary Uses:** both domestic and commercial; when herb should be added in the cooking process; if the herb makes a tea and brewing instructions. **Craft Uses:** to enjoy the natural beauty of herbs. **Medicinal Uses:** traditional herbal medicine uses and its value in modern medicine; nutritional information. **Cautions:** information on existing known problems that susceptible individuals may have from consumption of or contact with the herbs. **Cultivars and Relatives:** descriptive listing of other useful plants related to herbs and outstanding cultivars. **Herbal Trivia:** snippets of the myths, legends, and folklore surrounding each herb.

I particularly enjoyed the use of the beautifully modified botanical illustration masterpieces produced in the 18th and 19th centuries.—Linny Heagy, Linny/Designer, Illustrator, email: a0005835@airmail.net.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL-CULVER. 2007. **A Passion for Trees: The Legacy of John Evelyn.** (ISBN 1-903-91947-9, hbk.). Eden Project Books, Eden Project Online Shop Bodelva Par, Cornwall PL24 2SG United Kingdom (**Orders:** <http://shop.edenproject.com/khxc/gbu0-display/splash.html>). \$45.00, 288 pp., color and b/w photos and illustrations throughout.

This copiously illustrated book marks the tercentenary of the death of English horticulturist and founding father of modern conservation, John Evelyn (1620-1706). It explores the legacy of John Evelyn through illustrated portraits of 30 of Britain's best-loved trees.

Described by Samuel Pepys as 'a man so much above others...a most excellent, humoured man and very knowing.' Evelyn, like Pepys is well known as a diarist, whose writing tells us much about the life and times of the 17th century, but it is in his interest in nature, gardens, horticulture and trees that is of concern in this book. Not only a gardener, Evelyn was a royal advisor, and precursor of the modern environmental movement, but he was also the author of exceptional works on horticulture. The greatest of these is *Sylva: A Discourse of Forest Trees*, published in 1664.

Unlike other European countries, Britain became unique in the way it used trees in the landscape. British designers of the 18th century found aesthetic considerations of prime importance over the more utilitarian aspects of silviculture. It was an idea based on creating landscapes by consulting the 'Genius of the Place'. Evelyn's *Sylva* is among the first books in English to show an appreciation of the aesthetic value of trees and the benefits of planting them to shape the landscape, as an artist might achieve with a painting.

From the beloved English Oaks to the Acacia, Arbutus, Bay, Box, Yew, Holly, Juniper and Laurel trees, author Maggie Campbell-Culver walks hand in hand with Evelyn to paint loving portraits of his well-loved trees. She ends with the following:

"The management and planting of trees are exactly the same as they were in 1664. What better, therefore, could we do than follow the advice of *Sylva*? The planting of trees is an essential element of life, and conservation is as necessary as it was when John Evelyn argued for it over 300 years ago."—Linny Heagy, Linny/Designer, Illustrator, email: a0005835@airmail.net.